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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,654	07/17/2003	Carrie Roberts	10019481-5	3849
7590	05/26/2005		EXAMINER	
			LIANG, LEONARD S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2853	

DATE MAILED: 05/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	10/622,654	Applicant(s)	ROBERTS ET AL.
Examiner	Leonard S. Liang	Art Unit	2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2005.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 31-41 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 31-41 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification does not mention that this case is a continuation of case 10/194467.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

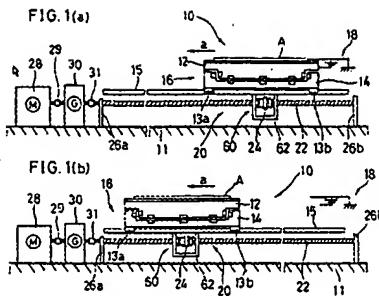
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 37-38 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Furukawa et al (US Pat 5467111).

Furukawa et al discloses:

- {claim 37} A printing mechanism (column 1, lines 6-8); a printhead that defines printzone plane; (column 7, lines 22-23); and print media support structure that moves an exposed sheet parallel to the printzone plane during printing on the exposed sheet, and the support structure including a biasing device that biases the exposed sheet perpendicular to the printzone plane and into a predetermined printing position with respect to the printhead during printing on the exposed sheet (figure 1a, reference A, 12, 13a, 13b; column 7, lines 22-23)



- {claim 38} wherein the support structure further includes a sheet retention device and wherein the biasing device biases the exposed sheet against the sheet retention device during printing on the exposed sheet (figure 1a, reference A; column 7, lines 8-33)
- {claim 40} A method of printing (column 1, lines 6-8); biasing an exposed sheet in a direction perpendicular to a printzone plane and into a predetermined printing position; moving the exposed sheet parallel to the printzone plane during printing on the exposed sheet; and supporting the exposed sheet generally across an entire planar surface of the exposed sheet during printing on the exposed sheet (figure 1a, reference A, 12, 13a, 13b; column 7, lines 8-33)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 31-36, 39, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Furukawa et al (US Pat 5467111) in view of Griswold (US Pat 3888582).

Furukawa et al discloses:

- {claim 31} A printing mechanism (column 1, lines 6-8); a printhead that defines a printzone (optical system; column 7, liens 22-23; printhead that defines a printzone is inherent); means for maintaining a sheet of print media including an exposed sheet stationary with respect to the means during printing, the means for maintaining moving through the printzone during printing by the printhead on the exposed sheet (figure 1a, reference A, 12; column 7, lines 22-33)
- {claim 35} A printing mechanism (column 1, liens 6-8); means for stationarily supporting a sheet of print media including an exposed sheet relative to the means for supporting during printing on the exposed sheet (figure 1a, reference A, 12; column 7, lines 22-33); advancing means for advancing the means for supporting through a printzone during printing on the exposed sheet (column 7, lines 8-21); and printing means for printing on the exposed sheet as the means for supporting is advanced through the printzone (column 7, lines 21-33)
- {claim 39} A printing mechanism (as applied to claim 37 above)

Furukawa et al differs from the claimed invention in that it does not disclose:

- {claim 31} means for maintaining plural sheets
- {claim 32} wherein the means for maintaining moves a stack of sheets of print media through the printzone during printing

- {claim 33} wherein a top sheet of the stack is exposed to the printhead during printing
- {claim 34} wherein the means for maintaining supports the plural sheets generally across an entire lower surface of a lowermost sheet of the plural sheets during printing
- {claim 35} means for stationarily supporting plural sheets
- {claim 36} wherein the means for supporting supports the plural sheets in a generally flat orientation during printing on the exposed sheet
- {claim 39} wherein the support structure moves a stack of sheets parallel to the printzone plane during printing, wherein the exposed sheet is a top sheet of the stack of sheets, and wherein the biasing device biases the stack of sheets perpendicular to the printzone plane such that the exposed sheet is biased into the predetermined printing position with respect to the printhead during printing on the exposed sheet
- {claim 41} biasing a stack of sheets in a direction perpendicular to the printzone plane, wherein the exposed sheet is a top sheet of the stack of sheets; moving the stack of sheets parallel to the printzone plane during printing on the exposed sheet; and supporting the stack of sheets generally across an entire planar surface of a lowermost sheet of the stack of sheets during printing on the exposed sheet

Griswold discloses:

- {claims 31 and 35} platen (i.e. tray) adapted to support a stack of sheets of print media (figure 1, reference 13)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Griswold into the invention of Furukawa et al so that the platen (i.e. tray) is adapted to support a stack of sheets of print media. The motivation for the skilled artisan in doing so is to gain the benefit of faster document handling (abstract). The combination naturally suggests the means for maintaining moves a stack of sheets of print media through the printzone during printing; wherein a top sheet of the stack is exposed to the printhead during printing; wherein the means for maintaining supports the plural sheets generally across an entire lower surface of a lowermost sheet of the plural sheets during printing; wherein the means for supporting supports the plural sheets in a generally flat orientation during printing on the exposed sheet; wherein the support structure moves a stack of sheets parallel to the printzone plane during printing, wherein the exposed sheet is a top sheet of the stack of sheets, and wherein the biasing device biases the stack of sheets perpendicular to the printzone plane such that the exposed sheet is biased into the predetermined printing position with respect to the printhead during printing on the exposed sheet; biasing a stack of sheets in a direction perpendicular to the printzone plane, wherein the exposed sheet is a top sheet of the stack of sheets; moving the stack of sheets parallel to the printzone plane during printing on the exposed sheet; and supporting the stack of sheets generally across an entire planar surface of a lowermost sheet of the stack of sheets during printing on the exposed sheet.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonard S. Liang whose telephone number is (571) 272-2148. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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MANISH S. SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER